

'Glaring Discrepancies' Noted in Recreation for Negroes

Dade County has made "great strides" in improving the lot of its Negro citizens, but progress has not been uniformly good. This third article on two studies of the Negro community, made ten years apart, deals with recreation delinquency and crime.

By BERT COLLIER

Herald Staff Writer

There are "glaring discrepancies" in the recreation facilities available for Negroes in the Miami area, Dr. Warren M. Banner, of the National Urban League, reports in his study of progress made locally toward giving an equal break to Negro citizens.

Although 16 per cent of Miami residents are Negro, only 2 per cent of the park and recreation area is available to them.

Dr. Banner, whose study updates a previous survey which he made 10 years ago, asked that his urgent need for additional services be "again brought to the attention of the proper officials and that these persons be urged to accelerate the pace" in making plans for expansion.

A good deal of work is in the planning stage. The county, which met one urgent demand by establishing the Negro bathing beach on Virginia Key, currently is engaged in negotiations for more land and has given this top priority.

Miami is planning additions to Dixie Park and new recreation areas. There are several sections built up solidly of Negro homes without any supervised recreation.

Dr. Banner said several voluntary agencies were planning expanded activity for Negroes.

There may be a direct relation between lack of good recreation and the number of arrests for so-called "petty" crimes. The report said about

eight of each ten arrests at the Negro precinct were for drunkenness, disorderly conduct, fighting and vagrancy. About 10 per cent were for gambling at cards, dice or

bill, and about 11 per cent for "vice."

These are the usual charges among people who find no other outlet for leisure-time activity other than on a low cultural level," the report said.

Officials reported crime had been reduced considerably since the addition of Negro police in 1944 and the establishment of the special Negro precinct and court in 1950.

Two of the 50 Negro police men are assigned to work with juveniles.

"These officers keep an eye on places where minors are not allowed, and lend a much needed service to the community. Where youths need to be held over before disposition of their cases, they are placed in the new detention home.

"Many cases are handled unofficially by the present procedure. Where the officer feels that the home condition of the youth will provide sufficient supervision of his behavior, in minor cases, he is turned over to his parents."

The report said the new juvenile court building, Youth Hall, provides first-class facilities for White and Negro children.

"At present, facilities are not available for institutional care of dependent Negro children. The feeling prevails that such are needed and plans are under way to provide these. Provision has been made to accept Negro girls at the State school for delinquent girls, although facilities are inadequate at the present time."

Community welfare agencies are making major strides in

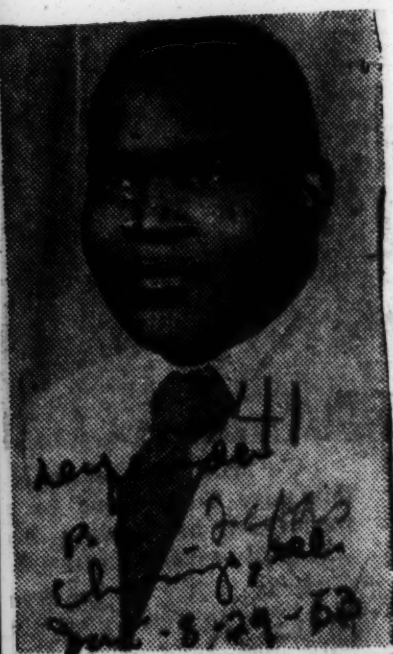
serving Negroes. Recreation and group work services gradually are being enlarged and social case work agencies have made "tremendous strides" in improving their relationship to the Negro community.

"This has been true with regard to clients and staff workers," the report said.

"While the relief-giving agencies have been better known to the Negro community, those that do not provide material assistance are more and more reaching the community needing their services. Several voluntary agencies that had no colored clients 10 years ago now accept them as a matter of course."

While these agencies expand in this field, two other agencies work entirely among Negroes.

One, interested in recreation and group work, has made "great progress, and has demonstrated the willingness and ability of the Negro community to assist itself if given the means and opportunity. The second works with planning from the standpoint "of cultural and economic integration through the adjustment of carriers to full participation on the part of persons of color."



HORACE R. JACKSON, a Temple, Texas, public school teacher, is the first Negro appointed by the City Recreation committee as director of city athletics in Temple.

Musical organization formed to build Negro parks, recreation

A Negro musical organization has been formed to raise money for Negro parks and recreation centers.

To be known as "Negro Song Festival Inc." it will give its first concert at Legion Field at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 10. Negro bands and choirs will take part.

Both white and Negro citizens met to form the organization. Its officers are: Clarence L. Burre, chairman, and president of the South Boston League; president, L. M. Bargar, general agent, Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., vice president; H. W. Stephens Sr., pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, secretary, and John A.

Hand, vice president of First National Bank, treasurer.

A board of trustees was formed to be comprised of the first three officers, and Henry P. Johnston, managing director of Station WSGN and executive vice president of The Birmingham News.

In addition to these citizens, the organization meeting was attended by J. J. Drew, general manager of the Alexander Fire and Auto Insurance Co., J. H. Williams, editor of The Birmingham Mirror; Gillin Scurlark, state federation president of civic leagues, and Prof. R. C. Johnston of Parker High School, who planned the festival program.

ALSO TAKING PART in the organization, and appointed as associate advisors, were: Dr. Frazer Banks, superintendent Birmingham public schools; King Sparks, Birmingham parks superintendent, and Reuben A. Martinson, supervisor of music for Birmingham public schools.

Prime purpose of the organization, it was specified in the charter, is "to furnish indoor and outdoor recreational facilities for Negro children and to make provision for their playground and playground activities, including supervision of such activities."

An annual festival is planned for the present but other musical events, with Negroes presenting the program, may be held, it was announced.

The president of the organization was authorized to open a campaign to enlarge the membership of the corporation "and to make plans to put on a series of song programs or festivals for which an admission fee would be charged, so as to

raise additional funds to carry on the corporation's work."

The organization was incorporated under Alabama laws.

Taking part in the festival at Legion Field will be the bands and choirs of Fairfield Industrial High School; Parker High School; Rosedale High School; Ullman High School and Miles College.

Negroes give city 11-acre tract for new park site

Birmingham has another park for Negroes.

The deed to 11 acres of park property in Pratt City was presented to the Park and Recreation Board yesterday. Making the presentation was a committee of four persons representing the Pratt City Colored Civic League and headed by Mrs. Martha Sams, the league's assistant secretary.

Park Board President James A. Downey Jr. thanked the delegation and said the board was happy to take over the park.

Negro citizens raised the money to buy the property. Later, the board, which said it understood that the park would be turned over to the city, placed some equipment at the site.

After it was reported that the park had not been decided over to the city, the board recommended that its equipment be removed.

However, the equipment was not removed and the delegation came forward with the deed yesterday.

Formal dedication of the park will be held later.

In other business, the board awarded contract for concessions at East Lake Park and swimming pool to J. R. Allen and Bill Sperber.

Atmore Dedicates Negro Park While Beneficiaries Look On

ATMORE, Ala., May 18—"The 8th Avenue Park for Colored," Atmore's new Negro Park was dedicated Friday afternoon, and officially turned over to the negro population of the city as hundreds of its beneficiaries looked on.

At a formal ceremony which took place at the five acre site in the heart of Atmore's Negro quarters, representatives of a number of Atmore Civic Clubs made statements, and H. H. Dees, mayor of Atmore gave the dedication address.

D. L. Longmire, president of the Negro Business and Professional Men's Clubs, presided at the ceremony, and introduced the "Bronze" Mayor, Houston Avery, Negro barber, and the queen, Miss Edwina Wilson, senior student at the Escambia County Training

School. Avery was elected by a majority at a special Negro-section election prior to the ceremony. He was presented the "Key to the City" by Mayor Dees.

After several musical selections by the E. C. T. S. Band, Longmire presented representatives of various Atmore organizations including: Marshall Patterson, Chamber of Commerce president; Randolph Maxwell, president, Lions Club; Rev. George Markel, president-elect, Rotary Club; Chester Benton, American Legion; Mrs. S. F. Crook, Study Club who presented a slide donated by her club for the park playground.

Patterson praised the local Negroes for their fine spirit of co-operation and quotes 1950 census figures which show that over 60% of Atmore's Negro families own their own homes.

Others went on to cite that the objectives of the Negro and white organizations were the same, that Atmore's race relations are recognized as the best found anywhere, and that the Negroes are noted for their co-operation in various community projects such as the bloodmobile program.

Mrs. Florence Olum, speaking for the Negro Modernistic Bridge Club, stated that such facilities should go a long way toward keeping down juvenile delinquency, and stressed the need for more youth recreation of all kinds.

Prof. S. A. Wisenhunt, Negro civic leader, and principal of the high school, was highly praised for his individual efforts toward establishing the park by Mayor

Dees.

Dees in his dedication address pointed out that work for the park began over two years ago, when a need for such a facility was realized. Dees praised the Negro citizens for their part in making the park a reality, citing especially the efforts of the Negro Men's Club, and a women's group, the Modernistic Bridge Club.

Speaking to the Negro organization for the city administration Dees continued, "we will develop it as we can, but you must take some of the responsibility for maintaining and operating it."

He then requested that a three person Board be set up to operate the park.

Facilities so far installed at the site include playground equipment, a gas-operated out-door stove, a large pavilion, and a wading pool.

CLUBS

BY REBECCA STILES-TAYLOR

PAULINE BRAY FLETCHER RETIRE AFTER 27 YEARS

Tuesday, Sept. 1, is the time set for the retirement of Mrs. Pauline Bray Fletcher, BN, from the directorship of Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher, after 27 years of arduous, sacrificial, loyal and constructive service and leadership.



MRS. TAYLOR

Mrs. Fletcher and a few pioneers, who believed in her ability to lead, founded the camp July 22, 1926. Mrs. Fletcher has directed it for the past 27 years. She now retires to private life but the work of her hands will be passed to generations to come.

On Wednesday, July 22, at 3 p.m., in the Juliette Bradford Hut at the camp, representatives of the following organizations celebrated with an elaborate program on the occasion of Mrs. Fletcher's retirement.

They were the associations of Birmingham Teachers, Fairfield Teachers, Bessie Mae Teachers, Business and Professional Women, Southern Beauty Congress, Alabama Teachers, Modern Beauticians, Birmingham Beauticians, Jefferson County Teachers.

Also Birmingham City Federation of Colored Women, Birmingham Metropolitan Council of Negro Women, Jefferson County Housewives, Acipco, Stockton, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Sempers Fidelis club, Interdenominational Alliance Press, Registered Nurses and Practical Nurses.

Musical numbers were given by Mrs. Abbie W. Carter, the Young Peoples' Choir of Thirgood CME church, directed by Mrs. L. S. Brannon and William McKinstrey. Rev. L. S. Brannon invoked the blessing of God and Mrs. Ruth J. Jackson served as mistress of ceremonies.

Each organization's representative was given two minutes to bring greetings. There was a tape

recording of the program through the courtesy of radio station WEDR. Presentations were made by Norman S. Randall.

THE CAMP — In the heart of Shades Valley through which runs an ever flowing grass-bordered creek which affords fine swimming, just 11 miles out from Bessemer, Ala., you will find this quiet haven among whispering pines, rolling table ends and virginal forests.

This is the dream-child of Pauline Bray Fletcher which has reached full fruition. In the evening of her life she is a very humble but PROUD woman.

Mrs. Fletcher, a native Georgian, born in Carnesville, Ga., is the sister of the late Bishop James A. Bray of the CME church. She received her training at home and at Normal Institute and the Alabama State Agricultural and Mechanical college. She qualified for registered nursing and began her

career as general and head nurse in Decatur, Ala., at Sterr's hospital.

She next took charge of the Children's Home hospital in Birmingham. From this service she was employed by the United Charities of Birmingham. She has the distinction of being the first health and service worker of her race in Birmingham 45 years ago. Becoming a widow two and one half years after her marriage to Andrew Jackson Fletcher, she never remarried but threw herself entirely into public work. She became public health nurse for the American Cast Iron Pipe Company of Acipco for five years, after which she gave five more years to the public health nursing program of the Anti-Tuberculosis association.

With the wealth of experience gathered and the friendship and confidence of hundreds of outstanding citizens and public units and having seen in her daily work the vital need of recreational facilities for the youth of her group, Mrs. Fletcher mortgaged her property (which she was never able to redeem) and purchased ground for a camp.

This camp was named for Mrs. Margaret Murray Washington, wife of Booker T. Washington, and on the death of Mrs. Washington, comes only from the knowledge the name of the camp was changed to Pauline Bray Fletcher who was its founder and director for 27 years.

Space will not permit me to give a full report of this fine achievement the only one of its kind (that I know) in the entire Southland, but today the camp is sponsored by the Girls Service League, inc., and is a recipient of the City's Community Chest, whose budget this year was \$4,600.

The camp owns 277 acres of land (some timbered) and five buildings, namely: The Oakes, The Rosa Windham, The Juliette Bradford, Acipco and Stockton.

The first building was the gift of T. C. Windham in memory of his daughter. It cost \$1,200 and houses 15 campers. The second was "The Oakes," which was financed by Mrs. Fletcher at a cost of \$485. The third was given by the teachers of Birmingham public school under C. W. Hayes.

It was called Pine Crest and housed 35 campers. It cost \$800. The next was given by the Birmingham City Federation of Colored Women and named in honor of its deceased president, Juliette Bradford. It cost \$1,400 and is used for a dining hall and administration building. The colored employees, under the direction of Norman Randall and Rev. L. B. Bascombe, built Acipco.

It cost \$1,200 and will accommodate 40 campers. Ten years later, the colored employees of Stockton Valves and Fittings company, led by John W. Mitchell, presented the Stockton Cottage at a cost of \$4,000. It has sleeping space for 29 campers. The camp is worth \$50,000.

Besides the buildings there are three bored wells with running water in all buildings. These are gifts of friends and each well is covered by a house. All through the years, Mrs. Fletcher has enjoyed the friendship and staunch support of the municipalities, churches, schools and the public in general. She will be succeeded by Mrs. Alva Cora Harris.

In 1948 the Chicago Defender gave Mrs. Fletcher a "Citation for Service," of which she is most proud. In 1949 the Iota Phi Lambda property (which she was never able to redeem) and purchased of the Year" and the Housewives League presented her with a scroll July 4, 1953. Her many friends wish for her that PEACE

CONTENTMENT which comes only from the knowledge of a WORK WELL DONE.

Gates Of Vulcan Park On Red Mountain Open To Race Citizens

The gates of Vulcan Park on Red Mountain are now open to Negro citizens at all times.

This announcement was made officially by Superintendent King Sparks of the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board, Tuesday.

Mr. Sparks' statement came following a meeting of Park Board members, Monday, in which they agreed to allow Negroes to visit Vulcan Park beginning this moment, at all times without having to get special permits.

Mayor James W. Morgan, a member of the board, said that Negro citizens, in groups or singly (individually) can now visit the state and park facilities freely.

Heretofore, Negro citizens seeking to enter Vulcan Park had to secure "special permits" for "special days."

Mr. Sparks confirmed the fact that no such practice now exists.

Vulcan Park, the city's showpiece scenic park, is operated by the city through tax-payers.

OTHER ACTION TAKEN

In other action taken at the board meeting, members agreed to co-operate with the Civil Service Personnel Board regarding employee classification.

The Personnel Board has charged the Park Board with working unclassified day laborers in caretaker's job at the currently unfinished W. Cooper Green (Negro) Golf Course in Powderly Hills.

Two persons are known to have passed the Civil Service examinations for the managerial post of the golf course. They are Rufus E. Reid Jr. and Samuel Mitchell. Both are also registered and qualified voters, this being among major requirements.

Vulcan's Gate In Birmingham Admits Negroes

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. Aug. 4—The gates of Vulcan Park on Red Mountain are now open to Negro citizens at all times.

This announcement was made officially by Superintendent King Sparks of the Birmingham Park and Recreation Board, Tuesday.

Mr. Sparks' statement came fol-

lowing a meeting of Park Board members, Monday, in which they agreed to allow Negroes to visit Vulcan Park beginning this moment, at all times without having to get special permits.

Mayor James W. Morgan, a member of the board, said that Negro citizens, in groups or singly (individually) can now visit the state and park facilities freely.

Heretofore, Negro citizens seeking to enter Vulcan Park had to secure "special permits" for "special days."

Mr. Sparks confirmed the fact that no such practice now exists.

Vulcan Park, the city's showplace scenic park, is operated by the city through tax-payers.

Other Action Taken

In other action taken at the board meeting, members agreed to co-operate with the Civil Service Personnel Board regarding employee classification.

The Personnel Board has charged the Park Board with working unclassified day laborers in caretaker's job at the currently unfinished W. Cooper Green (Negro) Golf Course in Powderly Hills.

Two persons are known to have passed the Civil Service examinations for the managerial post of the golf course. They are Rufus E. Reid Jr. and Samuel Mitchell. Both are also registered and qualified voters, this being among major requirements.

OVER COLLINS' BITTER PROTEST:

Rosedale Pool Made Open Unit By 4-1 Vote

WASHINGTON
Over the bitter protests of numerous uninvited white citizens and Chairman Frank Collins the District Recreation board voted, 4-1, to make the controversial Rosedale pool a mixed unit, Tuesday, at its regular meeting.

The board's action followed a 3-2 vote by its transition committee on April 1. Voting for the mixed pool were Mrs. Alice Hunter, secretary; Edward J. Kelly, representing the National Capital Parks; Walter Fowler for the District Commissioners; and Henry Gichner, a citizen representative.

Chairman Collins was the lone dissenter, while two other board members, Albert Steinem, representing the D.C. Board of Education, and Mrs. O. G. Hankins were not present.

At a previous meeting both board of recreation by a 4 to 1 vote decided Tuesday to oppose integrating Rosedale.

Stormy Meeting

The voting followed one of the most stormy meetings witnessed in recent years. It was punctuated by loud denunciation of the board's policy by white citizens, who had not made a request for an appearance to speak. They left noisily when the vote was taken.

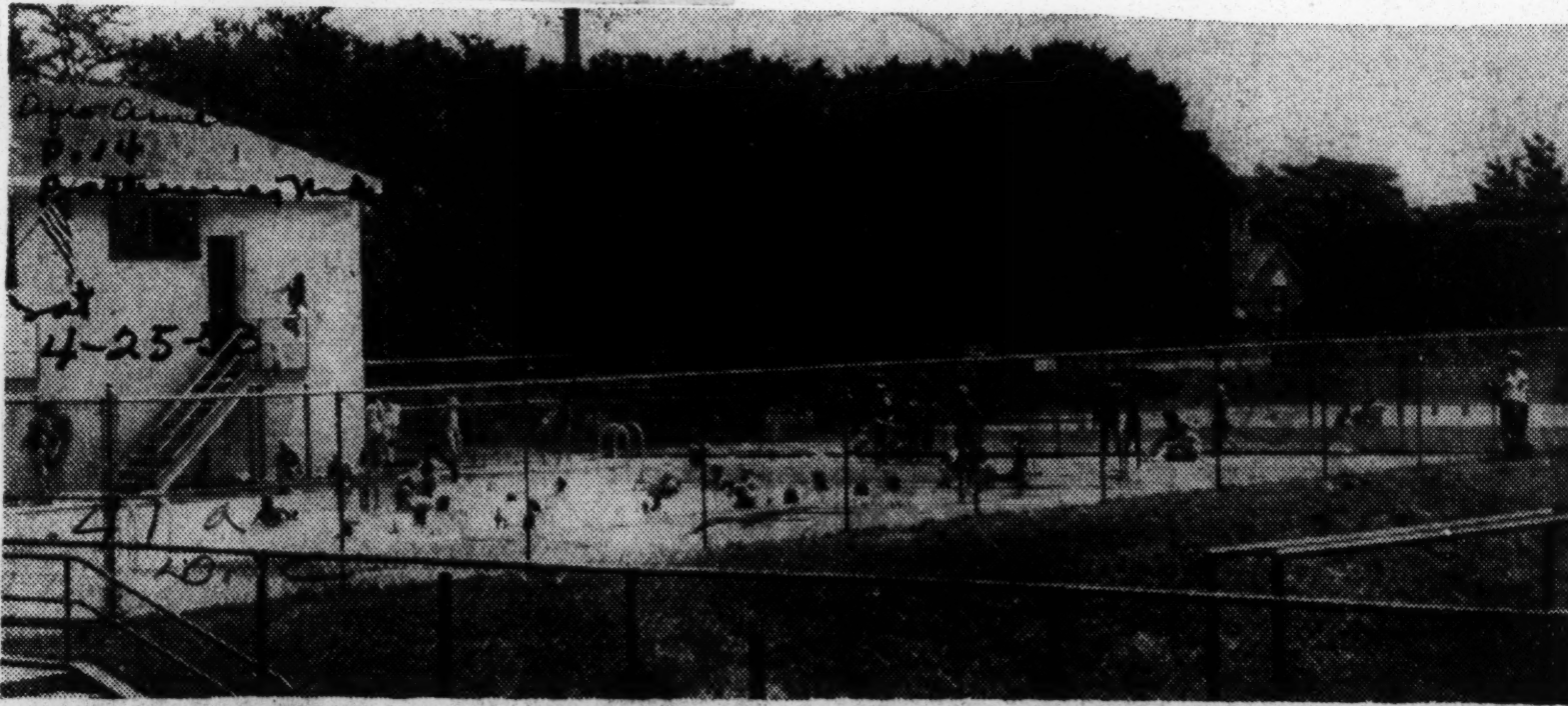
Mr. Steinem had called the board, and asked that the matter of voting be carried over to the meeting in May. Mrs. Hankins' absence was not explained.

Mrs. Hunter made the motion that the pool should be open on a mixed basis. Mr. Gichner seconded the motion.

Stall For Time

Mr. Collins, apparently stalling for time, said:

"I think that since Mr. Steinem and Mrs. Hankins are not present, we should hold this matter over until the next meeting. This is a matter of importance.



OUTSIDE NO LONGER—The board of recreation by a 4 to 1 vote decided Tuesday to open the Rosedale Swimming pool to everyone. The above picture was taken last year on a hot and sultry day in June. This year colored youngsters won't have to stand longingly outside the pool in Washington, D. C.

and we feel that it should have a majority vote. Pointing out how Mr. Steinem and Mrs. Hankins feel, Mr. Kelly suggested that the board take a vote. Mr. Fowler, who later said in voting, "I was told to say yes," remarked that he didn't see any reason why the voting should be deferred on Rosedale.

Collins Breaks Precedent Mr. Collins, at that point broke one of the precedents of the board. In recent years it has been the general rule that citizens, wishing to be heard before the board, make a written request 24 hours before the regular board meeting.

Since Mr. Steinem and Mrs. Hankins were absent, Mr. Collins asked the white citizens if they wanted to say anything before the board voted.

Clifford Newell, former president of Federation of Citizens Associations jumped to his feet. He argued that the board should consider carefully any move to

open the Rosedale Swimming pool to everyone. The above picture was taken last year on a hot and sultry day in June. This year colored youngsters won't have to stand longingly outside the pool in Washington, D. C.

Newell Talks "Certainly, there had been a decrease in the use of Rosedale pool. There is a reason, and you know why," Mr. Newell continued:

"Are you going to deprive thousands of people in northeast Washington of their privileges? It's a privilege which they have paid taxes for. We have our social privileges and they should be recognized. Have we reached the stage where our social privileges will be decided by the Recreation Board?" he shouted.

Says Move Unwise "In the event that this board sees fit to act upon the swimming pool at this time, before the people of Washington can be heard from, I think you are doing an unwise thing," Mr. Newell concluded.

Mr. Newell and John Con-

on are opponents of mixed participation in the area. Mr. Collins openly condemned the action of the other board members who wanted an immediate vote, he said: "It is not a question of segregation, but what is right for Washington."

Collins Speaks His Piece "I have talked with prominent colored people in the District, and they agree that we should sit down, and work this thing out together.

"I feel that the colored persons should have what we have when we agree to it. The colored persons are entitled to every right that the whites have, but they shouldn't force themselves upon others.

"This sort of thing tends to create more trouble," he concluded.

Gets Thunderous Ovation Mr. Collins received a thunderous ovation from the uninvited

white citizens. Following the vote the citizens trooped from the room in a disorderly fashion, casting disparaging remarks at the board members.

Among the remarks were: "We are leaving. We are the American citizens of Washington."

"I'm a fourth generation of Washington and I don't change." "Gichner, all of you should go to the Reds!"

"Bunch of Communists" "Just a bunch of communists!" Mr. Collins, seemingly abetting the citizens, remarked as they left the room. "Citizens of Washington may say anything they want to," he said.

Following the Recreation Board's transition committee meeting on April 1, Mr. Collins told the AFRO reporter that the racial trouble in Washington has developed since World War II. Prior to the war, he said, only about 10 per cent of the population of the District was colored.

The migration during the war has swelled the colored population to 35 per cent of the total population, he said.

Most of these people came from southern states such as South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, he continued.

"They came here and created living problems. Now they want to take what the whites have," he said.

More Integration Reported In District Recreation Units

Segregation has been eliminated in seven more of its 144 recreation units during the 1953 fiscal year, the District Recreation Department announced yesterday in its annual report to the Commissioners.

This makes a total of 35 units which have been integrated racially since 1949 in accordance with the policy of the Recreation Board, the report stated.

Five of the six day camps operated by the department were non-segregated and one unit was operated with a mixed racial staff, according to the report.

In the white neighborhood centers, attendance increased by 265,394 during fiscal 1953, and attendance at all recreation units totaled more than 12 million persons.

Recreation Superintendent Milo Christensen outlined the scope of the year's recreational activities ranging from dramatics to golf tournaments and square dancing.

From a program standpoint, he said, one "outstanding" accomplishment of the year was the Children's Theatre season, during which six plays were presented.

During the fiscal year, he said, the learn-to-swim program at the Dunbar Pool showed an increase with 1000 boys and girls participating.

In outdoor competition, there were 12 baseball teams; 222 softball teams in 33 leagues; 48 teams in nine leagues for women's softball; 19 teams in touch football, and 225 participating in tennis tournaments and classes.

For folk dancers, the annual Folk Festival was held at Cardoza Auditorium with 52 groups participating.

Negroes Urge Dixie Park Auditorium

Early completion of an auditorium wing on the community house in Dixie park was asked Thursday by a Negro delegation calling at city hall.

The group met with City Manager E. A. Evans and Welfare Director Knox Eldredge to discuss plans for future Negro recreation facilities.

Eldredge explained that the city commission has provided \$150,000 in the current year's budget to condemn land for expansion of the park in the downtown Negro district. The suit now is in circuit court.

"We can't do anything until we get more property," Eldredge said. "When we get that, we can go ahead with other improvements."

Evans said he will ask for sufficient funds in 1954-55 to complete the community house. The additional wing has been estimated at \$70,000.

The community house now is used as a recreation center. It also houses offices of the Greater Miami Urban League, YMCA and YWCA.

In the delegation calling on the city officials were Dr. E. A. Ward, Judge L. E. Thomas, Dr. I. P. Davis and H. D. Lang, all representing the Urban League. John Diaz, YMCA, and Mrs. Lois A. Johnson, YWCA.

Negro Group Authorized To Present Park Needs

Lack of Location Delays Park for Negroes in Northeast

By MARJORY SMITH

Atlanta City Council's parks committee, following a session Tuesday with representatives of two Atlanta Negro organizations which had petitioned the city to abolish segregation in use of public parks facilities here, authorized establishment of a Negro committee of three to present future park needs of Negro citizens.

The committee acted on motion of Councilman Raleigh Dorman, with Mayor Hartsfield first suggesting the special committee.

Councilman asked B. T. Harvey, Morehouse College teacher and spokesman for 20-odd Negroes attending the Tuesday meeting to name three Negro representatives to confer with the Parks Committee.

The committee also passed a resolution by Councilman Dowse Donaldson directing City Parks Manager George Simons to "expedite" development of three additional tennis courts in Washington Park, one of three city parks for Negroes.

In other action Tuesday the Parks Committee awarded a contract for printing of 50,000 booklets on the Atlanta Cyclorama to Higgins-McArthur Co. and recommended that City Council authorize Mayor Hartsfield to sign a contract for the Atlanta Opera Co. to perform at Chastain Memorial Park amphitheater for a series of summer concerts.

Petition of the Atlanta Tennis Club and the West Side Tennis Club, both Negro organizations, seeking to set aside city parks segregation, was made public for the first time Tuesday. Parks Manager Simons said he had withheld the petition, filed on May 23, pending the Tuesday afternoon hearing.

Although the segregation issue was not pressed in the committee meeting Tuesday, Harvey presented to all councilmen attending a copy of the petition. The paper, bearing 98 signatures, charges that Negro recreational facilities "are not only inadequate, unequal and segregated, but are also under-staffed and poorly serviced."

Outlining specific improve-

By CLAUDE GEORGE SR.

For lack of an available location, the \$64,000 set aside to build a park for Negroes in the northeast section still is pending. George I. Simons, general manager of the City Parks Department, told Atlanta members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mayor Hartsfield and parks officials attending the monthly meeting of the Atlanta NAACP told members that a site near Auburn Ave. and Butler St., once under consideration, had been taken into the East connection of the expressway.

Simons said the parks department also was having trouble finding a site for a Negro golf course. He said, however, that the three existing Negro parks, Anderson, Pittman and Washington, will be improved. Mayor Hartsfield expressed confidence that Moseley Park will be turned over to Negroes in the near future.

Miss Virginia Carmichael told the group that 15 supervised playgrounds and five community centers now are operated for Negroes in Atlanta.

NAACP members at the meeting voted their disapproval of Negro use of the side entrance to the Terminal Station and of the dual

facilities for tax services at the Fulton County Courthouse.

Pool For Whites Proposed By Citizens Ass'n

A new \$110,000 dollar swimming pool has been proposed for the John A. White Park in West End to compensate white citizens for the loss of Mozley Park to Negroes which is expected to be effected this fall.

The proposed new pool received top priority under the city of Atlanta's parks improvement program after S. B. Avery, president of the Southwest Citizens Association, told the parks committee in the City Council that West End white citizens are "oppressed" to the transfer of Moseley Park to Negro use, but they demand a substitute of its facilities.

If the proposed pool is endorsed by the Citizens Park Advisory Board, at least \$110,000 will be allocated for the pool, which is to be built in an undeveloped part of John A. White Park, according to Parks Manager George Simmons. This part of the park lies near the boundary of Greenwood Cemetery.

Meanwhile, the parks committee announced plans for the dedication of the new \$110,000 Candler Park swimming pool with an open house yesterday. The park will open officially today.

Plans To Sue City If Park Bar Is Lowered

LOUISVILLE (ANP)—In an unusual move—for a Negro—Harry S. McAlpin, local attorney, threatened to sue city officials if they permit Negroes to enter Iroquois Park for performance of "The Tall Kentuckian," a play based on the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Atty. McAlpin's proposed action came after an announcement that colored patrons would be admitted to Iroquois open-air theatre June 15 to July 4 for the play which is being presented as part of the city's 175th anniversary celebration.

Apparently he is trying to force the city to admit Negroes to all city parks at all times or not at all.

In a letter to Mayor Farnsley, McAlpin, former local NAACP head, pointed out that city officials prohibit colored persons from using facilities of major public parks except at a Negro park, Chickasaw.

Louisville Park Suit Challenges Segregation Law

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — If Negroes are allowed to mingle with whites in a segregated park for a single show, does this not prove the segregation rule unreasonable and hence legally void?

Such is a question asked by Mrs. Huburnia Moorman in a suit filed in a Circuit Court to test a regulation requiring race segregation in city parks.

The action followed a decision by city officials last Thursday to suspend segregation at Iroquois Amphitheater for three weeks, beginning Monday. In that period a musical drama, "The Tall Kentuckian" will be presented as part of Louisville's founding festival.

The petition, prepared and filed by Attorney Harry S. McAlpin, challenges park segregation. The attorney also threatens to sue city officials if they permit Negroes to enter the park for the performance, unless segregation is wiped out in all parks for regular use.

Mrs. Moorman said in the suit that she requested a copy of the "reputed segregation regulation" but that Parks Director T. Byrne Morgan refused her request. The regulation was adopted in 1928 by a former board of park commissioners.

The petition also contends that the segregation rules does not define standards for determining who is white and who is a Negro.

In a letter to Mayor Farnsley, McAlpin pointed out that all parks were segregated, except a Negro park, Chickasaw, and declared:

"As ridiculous as it may sound, I shall bring charges against the park police and the police for failure to carry out their duties if they fail to keep all Negroes out of Iroquois Park during the showing of the "Tall Kentuckian," or fail to arrest and jail all those who persist on entering therein, unless, of course, the segregation ruling is revoked."

Let Negroes Into Parks, 5 Whites Urge Lack of Trouble Cited At 'Tall Kentuckian'

A delegation of five white persons yesterday urged Mayor Farnsley to open Louisville parks, including the Iroquois Amphitheatre, to Negroes.

Mrs. Beatrice Pearson, 1261 Bassett, was chief spokesman for the group at the City Hall beef session. She told Farnsley "there was no trouble" when Negroes attended Amphitheatre performances of "The Tall Kentuckian," a Louisville Founding Festival event.

Says Acceptance Ready
This would indicate "the white people of Louisville are ready

to accept Negroes," she told Farnsley in urging they be admitted to amphitheatre productions now.

With Mrs. Pearson were Miss Mary Monk, Miss Gladys Davis, the Rev. Olof Anderson of Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church, and J. M. Tydings, Anchorage, executive director of the Lincoln Foundation.

The women are members of a committee representing the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The organization was founded in 1915 by the late Jane Addams, famed Chicago social worker, Mrs. Pearson said.

Run by Private Groups

Farnsley did not comment on the suggestion that the parks be opened to Negroes. But he observed that the Park Theatrical Association, which leases the Amphitheater for the regular summer series of musical productions, is a private corporation. Courts have held it may bar Negroes.

Mr. Anderson suggested the City stipulate in the association's lease that Negroes must be admitted to the Amphitheatre. The present lease will not expire until after the current season, so Farnsley suggested the delegation take its request to the association.

Would Consider Plea

"We will consider the request if it is made," commented G. E. Gans, chairman of the association's board of directors, later in the day. "As far as I know, it will be made right away," Mrs. Pearson said at her home last night.

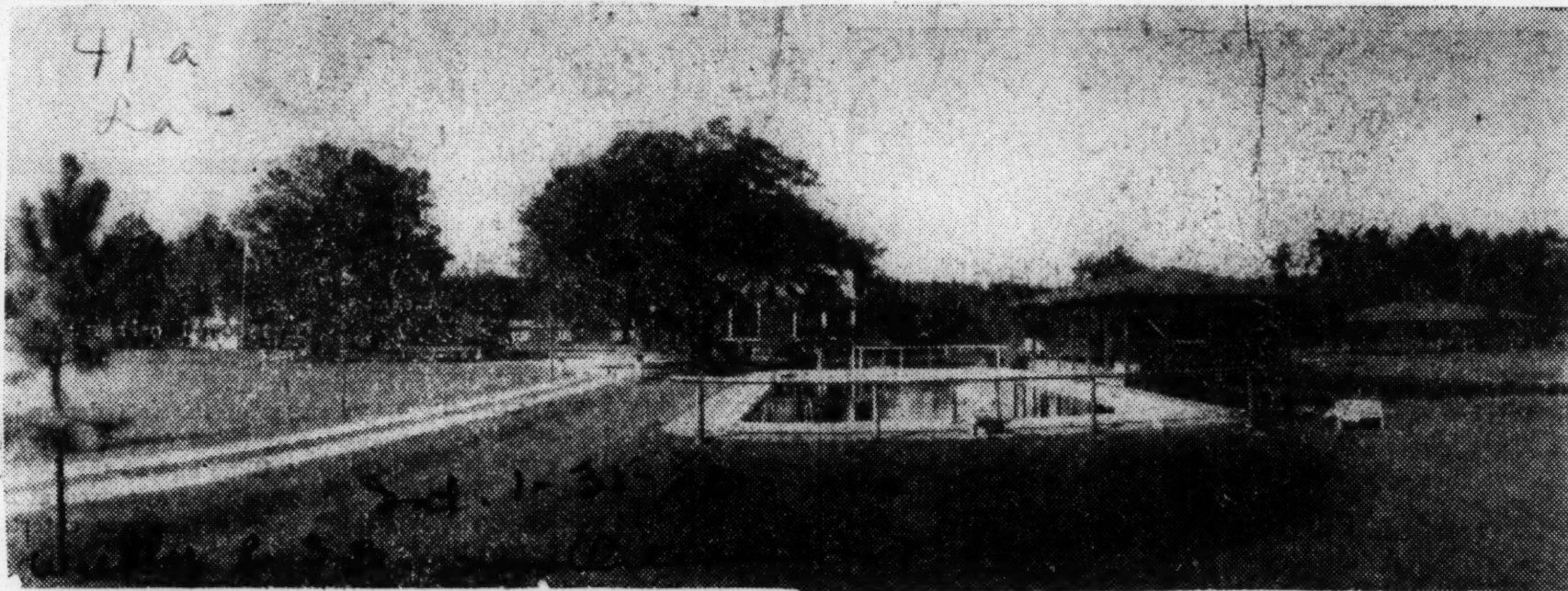
Mrs. Pearson also disclosed that an anonymous telephone caller, a woman, had called her during the day to object to her delegation's stand. "But she wasn't nasty about it," Mrs. Pearson added.

Another beef-session visitor, Mrs. Margaret Wise, 833 W. Walnut, complained that parked cars along Rodman between Winkler and Central block moving traffic. Farnsley told City Traffic Engineer Wilbert Watkins to study the possibility of banning parking, at least near the intersections.

Longshoremen Purchase Swank Recreation, Tourist Spot Near Slidell

Sensing the need for adequate Negro tourist accommodations in this area, Local 1419 of the International Longshoremen's Association several weeks ago purchased an elaborate recreation center and tourist court on Highway 11 about two miles north of Slidell, La. Dave A. Dennis, president, made the announcement this week.

Tentatively named "The Longshoremen's Pleasure Center," the facility covers thirteen acres with 450 feet fronting on the highway. Included are a swimming pool for adults, a wading pool for children, two log cabins, one apart-



NEW LONGSHOREMEN SPA—Local 1419, International Longshoremen's Association, New Orleans, Dave A. Dennis, president, last week announced purchase of an elaborate recreation center and tourist court on Highway 11, just two miles north of Slidell, La. The above scene shows its swimming pool in the center, several of the buildings and the picnic grounds. Mr. Dennis said this much-needed facility for Negroes in the South is being put in top shape and will be available to Mardi Gras visitors and summer tourists as well as to the 3,500 members of Local 1419.

Woman Honored at Ceremony Dedicating Playground



Rev. A. L. Davis, pastor of the New Zion Baptist church.

The new playground has facilities for softball, baseball, basketball, a shelter, and a play area for smaller children.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.

THE EDITH SAMPSON PLAYGROUND, named after the nation's first Negro woman representative to the United Nations, was dedicated here Sunday night. Shown at the ceremony are (from left) the Most Rev. L. Abel Caillouet, bishop auxiliary of New Orleans; Mrs. Edith Sampson, and Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison.

Ex-Envoy to UN Speaker at Opening of Playground

Says US Needs Devotions, Skills of All Citizens

Living in a crucial period, America needs the devotion and skill of all its citizens, Negro and white alike. A former representative to the United Nations, said Sunday night at the dedication of the city's 119th playground.

The new four-acre playground, located at Benefit and Louisa sts., was named after Mrs. Edith Sampson. Mrs. Sampson, the first Negro woman to represent this country in the United Nations, is a Chicago attorney and former probation officer and referee in the Cook county, Ill., juvenile court. At the UN she served as alternate rep-

resentative during the fifth and seventh sessions of the General Assembly.

Praises NORD, Mayor

She praised the efforts of Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison and city officials for the New Orleans recreation department. Through his efforts, Mrs. Sampson said, the mayor shows he is "the mayor of all the people of New Orleans, and not of a privileged group."

Speaking on her impressions after a trip around the world, she said "people everywhere are looking for the same thing—peace and happiness. But there is no peace, and that's what we must work for—all of us."

"Everywhere I have been (in foreign countries) I have heard America assailed and attacked. But everybody's trying to get here," she said. The good aspects of the nation far outweigh the

bad, she commented.

Of her experience in the UN, she noted: "I wasn't there to represent 16,000,000 Negroes. I was there representing all Americans. It was a great privilege."

Speaking to the young people, she said "two-thirds of the people of the world, who are dark people, look to you for guidance." She urged them to get as much education as possible.

Morrison Speaks

Mayor Morrison introduced Mrs. Sampson and spoke briefly. He said there were now seven swimming pools and 22 playgrounds for Negroes in the city.

Mrs. Maude Phillips, president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., a national professional women's group, presented Mrs. Sampson with a bouquet. Mayor Morrison gave her a certificate of honorary citizenship and a key to the city.

Master of ceremonies was Morris F. X. Jeff, director of NORD's Negro division. The invocation was given by the Most Rev. L. Abel Caillouet, bishop auxiliary of New Orleans, and the benediction by the



NAACP ATTORNEYS WIN PARK VICTORY—Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, Baltimore NAACP president congratulates Linwood Koger Jr., who led the panel of NAACP attorneys who won a court order Tuesday morning opening the Sandy Point state park to all without segregation. Looking on, left to right are Jack Greenberg, Tucker Dr. Dr. Roscoe Brown. Bowen Jackson and Mrs. Beatrice Martin.

4
M. J. Jackson
 p. 8
Baltimore,
Md.
Sat.
6-13-53



These pictures clearly show the accuracy of Judge W. Calvin Chesnut's decision in

finding segregated beach facilities at Sandy Point State Park are separate but not

equal. The jurist has signed a preliminary injunction abolishing racial bars at South

Beach, at right, which had been restricted for sole use of white persons only. E. Beach

at left, was the barren strip of land allotted for use by colored citizens.

Judge Chesnut's Order Abolishes Separate Beaches

Sandy Point State Park Area Now Available To All Citizens After NAACP Court Victory

BALTIMORE

On Thursday, June 4, Federal Judge W. Calvin Chesnut signed the preliminary injunction which orders the State of Maryland to open all beach facilities at Sandy Point to everyone.

Judge Chesnut's decree means that as of now, anyone in the State of Maryland can use facilities at South Beach, which has heretofore been restricted to use of white persons.

Late Thursday night, state officials conferred at a hastily arranged meeting to determine what the official policy at Sandy Point will be.

Governor Mceldin has asked officials in the Attorney General's office, the Board of Public Improvements, and the Board of Forests and Parks for a report on conditions at Sandy Point. The Governor refused to issue a statement until receipt of these reports.

The State can either permanently open Sandy Point to all its citizens, have alternate days for white and colored citizens, or close Sandy Point until the separate facilities are equal. The injunction, prepared by

NAACP attorneys Linwood Koger jr., Jack Greenberg, New York office, and Tucker Dearinger reads:

dat. 6-13-53
ORDER FOR

PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION
Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, and pleadings and papers filed by both parties having been read and considered, and testimony having been presented in a hearing on the Motion for Preliminary Injunction, and the Court having made the following findings of fact:
That South Beach facilities are superior to those at East Beach.

That the State of Maryland has intended to equalize facilities at South Beach and East Beach.

That at least half of the summer season will have passed before East Beach and South Beach facilities will have been equalized.

It is, therefore, Ordered, Adjudged and Decreed this 4th day of June, 1953, that the Commission of State Forests and Parks of Maryland, Joseph F. Kaylor, Director of the Department of Forest and Parks, and Joseph Henderson, Superintendent of Sandy Point

State Park and Beach, and the agents and successors of each defendant, be, and they are immediately and preliminarily enjoined and restrained from excluding any person solely on account of race and color from facilities at South Beach of Sandy Point State Park and Beach and from providing for white persons, or anyone else, other superior facilities from which plaintiffs or other colored persons are excluded solely on account of race and color. Taxable Court costs to be paid by defendants.

Gave Verdict Tuesday

Judge Chesnut announced he would sign the preliminary injunction abolishing the segregation after a hearing in U.S. District Court, Tuesday morning.

Only about 20 persons of both races attended the hearing. The celebrated jurist had previously indicated, in conferences with state and NAACP counsel, that he would not issue an immediate decision.

First indication that he might rule favorably came when Judge Chesnut asked Joseph Henderson, director of Sandy Point, what the consequences would be if Sandy Point were closed until work needed on East Beach were completed.

"Close both beaches?" Mr. Henderson asked in astonishment.

"Yes," said Judge Chesnut, "if the white people object to colored people, why not close the whole thing?"

"I know of no obligation the State of Maryland has to furnish a private beach for its citizens. It would be better to close it to avoid any unpleasantness."

Koger Objects

At one point in the trial, W. Giles Parker, assistant Attorney General who argued the case for the state, asked O. W. Billmyer, State Park official, to reveal the plans the state had considered for improvement of the East Beach.

Linwood Koger objected, say-

ing, "Your Honor, we are pleading that a present right exists for us to be admitted to Sandy Point. Regardless of what the State has for the future, we have a right to see the facilities now."

Judge Chesnut replied: "I'll admit the testimony, but note your exception."

During discussion of a pending taxpayer's suit attacking the validity of the state budget, Judge Chesnut asked: "I understand the state has no money for the work needed at Sandy Point."

Parker: "It will be available any day now, your Honor."

Chestnut: "What's to prevent the plaintiff in the lawsuit from appealing in the event a decision is rendered against him?"

"Lot of Money"

Another time Mr. Billmyer reported that \$36,100 had been awarded for work needed on the East Beach. Judge Chesnut then commented: "That's a lot of money to be spent for a beach. With consent of the Legislature, too, has the contract been awarded?"

Billmyer: "Yes sir, first approval has been given. With proper co-operation and co-ordination from all concerned, we should be able to open in four to six weeks."

Jack Greenberg then asked Mr. Billmyer: "Isn't it true that you said last year that the beach would be ready this year?"

Billmyer: "Well, I think we said that last year."

The witness was then asked whether he considered East Beach usable. He replied: "Well in some areas the beach can be used, but in other areas there are some bad places."

\$64 Question

Judge Chesnut then said: "I don't know whether the witness can answer this question, but why does the state provide for

discrimination between white and colored people?"

Billmyer: "Well, your Honor in answering that question I can only say that the original plan call for separate facilities."

The judge then asked the Assistant Attorney General: "Mr. Clark, is there any statutory policy that directly affects state activities in regards to racial segregation at the beach?"

Clark: "As far as I know, your Honor, there isn't any statute. That question has never been raised before."

Joseph Henderson was then brought to the witness stand. After he declared he had been director at Sandy Point since April, 1952, Judge Chesnut asked:

"What did you observe in regards to case of South Beach? Question I'm leading up to is, suppose I did open the beach to colored people, what would be the effect?"

Henderson: "I don't feel I'm able to tell you what may happen in the future."

Widely Varied Figures

Henderson was then asked by Judge Chesnut what the attendance figures were for East and South beaches during 1952.

Henderson: "In the month of July, 1952, 114 persons used the bath house facilities at East Beach. This can be approximated as 20 per cent of the total attendance."

"On South beach, during the same period, 9,645 persons used the bath house facilities. The same 20 per cent ratio applies."

Judge Chesnut: "People of various ages use Sandy Point. Does everybody who comes to the beach use the beach facilities?"

Henderson: "No sir, the same ratio applies."

Chesnut: "The people that don't go in the water, what do they do?"

Henderson: "Picnicing, fishing."

Admits No Segregation

Jack Greenberg: "I understand that until the beach opened this year, there was no segregation this year, is that true?"

Henderson: "Yes, sir." Greenberg: "Were there any after effects?"

Henderson mumbled his reply, but said in effect that women remained in their cars and there was not much "contact."

In delivering his decree, Judge Chesnut said: "I can't enjoin forbearance, consideration and patience on the part of persons seeking their constitutional rights or on the part of other persons."

Debunks Dim View

During the trial Attorney Koger pointed out that conditions in Maryland had changed and the frequent "dire predictions" stated by city and state officials whenever a change in tradition loomed were contradicted by fact.

When Mr. Koger informed Judge Chesnut that the system of using alternate days for white and colored persons, had been abolished on the municipal golf courses, the judge expressed amazement.

The NAACP attorneys also stressed the fact that public swimming pools have been open to both races in St. Louis and Washington, D.C., for two years without incident.

**Bob Kid, From Poteau, Says NAACP Does
Not Represent Point of View of Blacks
In His Community**

CAN'T SELL BONDS WITHOUT SEGREGATION? *Allen*

state capital protesting in the turn to another room and pre-
erection of the proposed Negro park in Wagoner county on the
Grand *Admission* gathered so much interest that
Kidd probably overlooked prepar-

When quizzed on this point, Roscoe Dunjee said the NAACP membership in Oklahoma was around 10,000.

Forgetting entirely that the nationwide poll made by Elmer Rober, in which his national authority said his survey showed the NAACP represented the thinking of the majority of the Negroes in the United States, Bob Lee Kidd, Poteau, said he knew a large number of Negroes up at Poteau and in his county who had told him they would be pleased to secure a segregated park. "Do you think your committee represents them?" asked Mr. Kidd.

"Probably not" said Dunjee. "You see we have Tories within our group just as you have them in the white race." Back in the revolutionary days you had white people who kow-towed to the crown, just as we have black folk today would probably for selfish reasons tell you they wanted a Jim Crow park. I suspect the fellow you talked too wanted a concession in the park out of which he will personally make money.

Kidd said this was not true, and when requested to give the names of the Negrines he had in mind, and who had said they wanted an all-Negro park, said he would re-

Chairman Harrison told the NAACP committee his committee was an administrative rather than a policy making group and that it would be advisable to take the issue raised by the NAACP to the legislature and the governor.

Open Fort Worth City Parks To All Citizens

FORT WORTH, Texas. — A joint committee of the Fort Worth Interdenominational Ministers Alliance and the Baptist Ministers union lead by the Rev. Prince F. Jackson, pastor of the Allen Chapel AME church, has succeeded in opening Fort Worth city parks to Negroes.

Traditionally, Negroes were allowed in the parks only on June 19, Emancipation day in Texas but this year the committee appealed "to every Negro who has any degree of race pride and self-respect to kill this discriminatory practice by staying away from Forest park and other places where amusements are denied Negroes except on June 19."

Rev. Jackson declared "our boys are fighting and dying today in Korea because of practices of this kind. They fight and die side by side to protect American ideals and at no time have suggestions been offered for the majority groups to fight 364 days of each year, and the minority groups to fight one day each year."

Replying to this, the Fort Worth Park superintendent, Hamilton Hittson, in a statement said "we never have refused a Negro permission to come to Forest or any other park. All I ask them do is prove to me that someone in authority told them they couldn't come into the parks or ride the rides."

"They are citizens and taxpayers and legally we can't refuse them the right to come to the parks or ride the rides."